

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1.-25. Cancelled

26. (New) A Multichamber dividing element for transport containers, comprising:
several sheets stacked horizontally or vertically, wherein adjacent sheets are connected to each other via common contact surfaces at defined intervals;
each of the sheets made of flexible material; and
common contact surfaces of two given, directly connected sheets are arranged offset in a sheet plane vis-à-vis the contact surfaces of one of these sheets with a respective next sheet (if present), wherein the dividing element can be erected, suspended or stretched such that it has flexible chambers when erected, suspended or stretched.

27. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein the common contact surfaces are substantially continuous contact strips which are arranged parallel at defined intervals and extend substantially over one dimension of the sheet surface.

28. (New) The dividing element according to claim 27, wherein the contact strips of one contact strip plane between two given, directly connected sheets are arranged offset in the sheet plane across a longitudinal extension of the contact strips vis-à-vis the contact strips of a contact strip plane of one of these sheets with a respective next sheet (if present).

29. (New) The dividing element according to claim 28, wherein the contact strips of two adjacent contact strip planes are arranged offset by half a distance between the contact strips of one plane.

30. (New) The dividing element according claim 26, wherein the sheets of flexible material are connected to one another via the common contact surfaces by gluing, sewing, welding or attaching profiles.

31. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein at least some of the sheets are releasably connected to one another to form the common contact surfaces by double-sided adhesive tape, Velcro fastening, buttons, pushbuttons or hooks and eyes.

32. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein the flexible material includes flexible plastic and elastic materials.

33. (New) The dividing element according to claim 32 wherein the flexible materials including flexible materials that do not become electrostatically charged.

34. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein the flexible material includes foils, nonwovens, laminates, coated woven fabrics, woven fabrics and interlaid scrim.

35. (New) The dividing element according to claim 34 wherein the flexible material includes industrial-grade textiles whose textile meshes are arranged slidable in and out of one another.

36. (New) The dividing element according to claims 26, wherein the dividing element is watertight or liquid-resistant.

37. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein the dividing element can be repeatedly erected, suspended or stretched and folded up again and is continually recyclable.

38. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein the chambers of the dividing elements which lie between two given sheets are substantially the same.

39. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, wherein the chambers are variable in shape.

40. (New) The dividing element according to claim 39 wherein the chambers are any of circular, elliptical, rhomboidal or rectangular.

41. (New) The dividing element according to one claim 26, wherein the dividing element can be erected or suspended in a transport container, or stretched in the latter, wherein the dividing element can be permanently fixed by gluing or tacking, via nails, screws or rivets and/or releasably fixed via double-sided adhesive tape, Velcro fastening, buttons, pushbuttons or hooks and eyes.

42. (New) The dividing element according to claim 41, wherein the hook side or the loop side of a Velcro fastening is provided sectionwise on an outer sheet of the dividing element, wherein the sections are arranged substantially central relative to two adjacent contact surfaces which an outer sheet has with its respective adjacent sheet.

43. (New) The dividing element according to claims 26, wherein the dividing element can be erected, suspended or stretched in a corresponding transport frame or transport container, wherein the interior of the transport frame or transport container is divided into several chambers by the dividing element.

44. (New) The dividing element according to claim 43, wherein if the interior of the transport container or frame has a substantially rectangular starting surface measuring X by Y, and has an internal dimension Z substantially perpendicular to this surface, the width of the sheets of the dividing element is substantially less than or equal to Z, and the dividing element when erected, suspended or stretched extends perpendicular to the sheet surface over a surface that corresponds substantially to the surface X by Y or is slightly smaller than same.

45. (New) The dividing element according to claim 44, characterized in that X is approximately 1/5 to 1/3 shorter than Y and the length of the sheets of the pushed-together or slackened dividing element is less than Y, and in that the width of the sheets is preferably less than X.

46. (New) The dividing element according to claim 26, characterized in that reinforcements are provided in at least one dimension in the sheet plane.

47. (New) The dividing element according to claim 46 wherein reinforcements are provided in two dimensions, wherein fibre materials and/or profiles of plastic or other at least semi-rigid materials are provided worked into the sheets or attached to the sheets as reinforcements.

48. (New) A method of producing a multichamber dividing element for transport containers, comprising:

connecting two sheets of flexible material via common contact surfaces at a large number of points distributed over surfaces of the sheets by gluing, sewing, welding or attaching profiles; and

subsequently stacking areally a plurality of additional sheets onto the aforesaid two sheets of flexible material and connecting each such further sheet onto a sheet onto which it is stacked via common contact surfaces at a large number of points distributed over surfaces of the sheets by gluing, sewing, welding or attaching profiles.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, and further including:
- a) applying adhesive in a pointwise application at defined intervals to a top of a first one of the sheets of flexible material,
 - b) laying a one of the sheets sheet of flexible material dimensioned corresponding to the first sheet onto the top of the first sheet;
 - c) applying adhesive in a pointwise application at defined intervals to the top of the second sheet, wherein the adhesive dots are applied offset vis-à-vis adhesive dots on the first sheet applied by the point application of adhesive,
 - d) laying a third one of the sheets of flexible material, dimensioned corresponding to the previous sheets, onto the top of the second sheet;
 - e) applying adhesive in a pointwise application to the top of the third sheet at defined intervals, wherein the adhesive dots are applied offset vis-à-vis the adhesive dots on the second sheet; and
 - f) stacking of any number of further ones of the flexible sheets onto the aforesaid flexible sheets and applying adhesive in a pointwise application to the top of each of the further ones of the flexible sheets, the adhesive dots of each of the further ones of the flexible sheets offset vis-à-vis the adhesive dots of the flexible sheet on which it is stacked, and

laying of a last one of the flexible sheets sheet onto the last but one of the flexible sheets provided with adhesive dots.

50. (New) The method of claim 48, and further including:

- a) laying of a second one of the sheets sheet, dimensioned corresponding to a first one of the sheets, onto a top of the first sheet;
- b) pointwise welding or sewing of the first sheet to the second sheet at defined intervals;
- c) laying of a third one of the sheets, dimensioned corresponding to the first and second sheets, onto the top of the second sheet ;
- d) pointwise welding or sewing of the second sheet to the third sheet at defined intervals, wherein the welds or seams are offset vis-à-vis the welds or seams from step b; and
- d) repeating steps c and d until a desired number of sheets are welded or sewn together.

51. (New) The method according to claim 48 wherein the contact surfaces of an nth one of the sheets sheet are arranged like the contact surfaces of an sheet previous the nth sheet.

52. (New) The method according to claim 48 wherein a fixing device for gluing, welding, sewing or attaching profiles of the sheets is stationary, and a holding device for retaining the sheet or the stacked sheets can be moved back and forth across the longitudinal axis of the fixing device and sideways parallel to the longitudinal axis of the fixing device.

53. (New) A method of transporting or storing loads, comprising:

placing the loads in a transport container having a multichamber dividing element, the multichamber dividing element including a plurality of sheets sheets stacked horizontally or vertically, wherein adjacent sheets are connected to each other via common contact surfaces at defined intervals;

transporting the transport container if transporting the loads; and
storing the transport container if storing the loads.

54. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the loads are one or more of heavy, sharp-edges, moist or liquid-excluding loads.

55. (New) The method of claim 53 wherein the loads are articles with sensitive surfaces.

56. (New) The method of claim 55 wherein the articles with sensitive surfaces include articles with varnished surfaces, car parts, glass items.